

C. O yes, uncle ! You must mean a field where there are plenty of buttercups and daisies.

U. Exactly so. Now think again. How long is the grass in the field ?

C. Why, uncle, in one sense, it is there all the year. Only the mowers go into the field and cut it down to make hay. But there is still the green grass at the bottom.

U. Well, and if the mower did not cut it, what then ?

C. O ! it would get dry, and brown, and quite withered.

U. But do the flowers stay all the year ?

C. No. They come up in the spring, and are gone again before the winter comes.

U. Well, then, you may read on. I think we have it now.

C. "The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away : but the word of the Lord endureth forever."

U. And as "the grass withereth," so do all human beings die ; and as the flowers, which are the ornaments of the field, just appear for a season, and fade, so is it with the "glory of man." All men are mortal, but all that seems great and glorious among them, all their pomp and pride, all this is as but the beautiful flowers among the grass. Sometimes this glory is obscured by disgrace ; or men change their minds and forget it ; and at all events, its possessors die, and others come in their place. The grass withers ; but even before the grass withers, the flowers fade and decay. And thus the grass and the flowers teach us the vanity of all earthly things. Only you must not forget, my dear children, that there is something which does *not* fade away.

C. Yes ; "The word of the Lord endureth forever. And this is the word which, by the Gospel, is preached unto you."

U. God himself, you know, is eternal, and his word is eternal truth. The opinions of men change ; but the doctrines of the Bible remain ever the same. The commandments of God are ever the same. He does not require us to-day to do one thing, and another thing to-morrow. There is one unchanged and unchangeable rule of duty. And so is it with God's "exceeding great and precious promises ;" especially his promises of mercy in Christ Jesus. His promises that he will save us by his grace, guide us with his counsel, and finally receive us to his glory, are all unchangeable as God himself. Whatever else fails, (and men fail in death) ; the old die ; the young, though beautiful and delicate as flowers, die ; heaven and earth shall pass away,) the truth of God fails not. "The word of the Lord abideth forever." Flowers, you see, are of *some* use. Every time you see them, remember the lessons which the Bible instructs you to gather from them. Trust in the love and care of your heavenly Father ; and, instead of loving and seeking the things which pass away, set your affections on things above, and diligently seek them, for they remain for ever and ever.